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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Update: Harris County Public Health's Statement on Deer Park Chemical Plant Fire

HOUSTON — As Harris County Public Health (HCPH) continues to work with our response partners to monitor the Deer Park incident, our main public health concern remains for the health and safety of the entire community.

Based on current health-related data from multiple sources, there continues to be **a low health risk for the general public**. Since this is an evolving situation, Harris County Public Health recommends that any individuals who feel they are experiencing symptoms should contact their healthcare provider.

Common symptoms may include:

- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Burning, irritation to skin, eyes, nose and throat
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Dizziness

Those who may be at increased risk are:

- Seniors/elderly
- Children
- Pregnant women
- Individuals with certain chronic health conditions or the immunosuppressed (e.g., long-term steroid use, dialysis, etc.)
- Individuals with respiratory diseases (e.g., asthma, COPD, emphysema, etc.)

As a reminder, if you are having health care concerns contact your healthcare provider. If you have no healthcare provider you can contact the Ask My Nurse helpline for any health-questions. The helpline is run by Harris Health System is now open from 8AM to 8:30PM 7 days a week. The number is 713-634-1110. Additionally, individuals with more serious symptoms, should call 911 for any life threatening emergency.

The fires can lead to strong feelings of distress or other mental health concerns. You can call the National @Distressline (call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746), which offers 24/7 emotional support. For updated guidance go to: www.readyharris.org/deerparkfire and www.hcphtx.org

HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

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